OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

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PUBLISHED BY THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

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## THE "SLUM PROLETARIAT."

Immediately after the second I. W. W. convention the sonorous phrase monger, otherwise known as editor of the Miners' Magazine, coined and hurled at the majority of delegates to that convention a number of choice epithets. Among others were such expressions as "proletaire rabble," "beggars," "coffee and doughnut brigade," and other more high-sounding phrases for which that pompous individual is some what noted in his limited circle. The I. W. W., however, survived

the ordeal.

A second time, following the fourth convention of the I. W. W., an equally celebrated coiner of phrases echoed the same cry in slightly different and more sinister terms. The editor of The People not only "shook hands over the bloody chasm" with the editor of the Miners' Magazine, but even went O'Neill one better by calling the majority of the fourth convention's delegates "park-bench loafers," "bum brigade," and "slum proletariat." These phrases have been bandied about the bountry by irresponsible followers of DeLeon, in an effort to apply them universally to the I. W. W. membership.

We have no response to water cases desplacing the attitude of the

country by irresponsible followers of DeLeon, in an entort to apply them universally to the I. W. W. membership.

We have no reason to waste space deploring the attitude of the above-named individuals and their followers. Both O'Neill and DeLeon may be expected to feel sore at the well-merited drubbings they and their respective followings received from the proletarian delegates of two I. W. W. conventions. The failure of the O'Neill, Mahoney, Shernann element to dominate the second convention accounted for their attitude in 1906, just as the failure of the "Danites" to control the fourth convention accounts for their attitude at present. That is taken as a matter of course.

But, lest some workingmen, unacquainted with the lay of the land, may chance to hear the cry, "slum proletariat," and be led astray thereby, we wish to take up this charge, and distinguish between the "slum proletariat," properly so called, and that element of the working class in the I. W. W. to whom this term has been falsely applied.

The "slum proletariat" does not consist of workers, but rather, as Marx defines it, of "the 'dangerous' class, the social scum, that PAS-SIVELY rotting class thrown of by the lowest layers of old society"—in short, of parasites of the "under world." Nor are the slums recruited entirely from the working class. On the contrary, the dominant and "dangerous" slum elements are made-up for the most part of former members of the middle and professional classes who have been forced into the slums by the pressure of concentrated capital and by the overcrowding of the "professions." "Cockroach" business men, shyster lawyers, quack doctors, petty politicians, "professors" of various sorts, who have failed to find a foothold in the realm of "respectability" are annually added in large numbers to the slums of our great cities. The previous training of these elements in the business and professional worlds, where the qualities of the mental prostitute, petty grafter and cheat predominate, eminently fit them for their less "respectable" careers in the slums.

Associated with the middle-class elements in the slums are, of

able" careers in the slums.

Associated with the middle-class elements in the slums are, of course, many former members of the working class, especially women, whom starvation wages in department stores and factories have driven into the ranks of prostitutes. Added to these are mental and physical cripples, and degenerate victims of alcohol and of various constitutional diseases. These last, however, are too far down in the mental and physical scale to be feared. Possessing neither initiative nor will sufficient to be directed, they can play little or no part either way in the labor movement. Of the elements that compose the slums, the first-named (middle class) are by far the more dangerous, for reasons already indicated. It is from their ranks that Pinkertons and other capitalist agents are mainly recruited. "Their conditions of life prepare them for the part of bribed tools of reactionary intrigue."

But the cry, "slum proletariat," uttered by enemies of the I. W. W., does not proceed from the discovery of such elements in the organization. On the contrary, that cry is raised against a militant element of the working class, popularly known in the West as the "hobo." Conditions of life and industry in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states must be understood in order to appreciate the role of the "hobo" plays in the labor movement of that section.

With a territory embracing in area more than one-third of the United States, that section of the country has a combined population scarcely exceeding that of the single state of New York. Within that vast area large capital is dominant as, elsewhere, although as compared with the eastern part of the country, industries are few, scattered and undeveloped.

with the eastern part of the country, industries are few, scattered and undeveloped.

Like the pioneers of an earlier day, workingmen who travel westward are for the most part imbued with the restless spirit of enterprise born of the desire for improved conditions. But unlike, the pioneer secking a homestead and finding it, the modern wage worker who "goes west" finds no alternative except to hunt for a master. Often the search is a long one, and the duration of employment brief in any one place. Hence economic necessity compels these men to shift from one section to another. A miner, working in Butte, Montana, at a given time, may inside of a month from that date be greeting former associates in Bisbee, Arizona. Lumber workers travel the length and breadth of the lumber belt, being now in British Columbia, again along the Columbia River in Oregon; in the red woods of California; among the camps and sawmill town sof Western Montana, and so on throughout the whole section. These workingmen, strong limbed, resolute, self-reliant—many of them of the finest specimens of American manhood—constitute the leaven of the revolutionary labor movement of the West.

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West.

With his perceptions quickened by travel and varied experience, the "hobo" not only absorbs readily the idea of industrial unionism, but carries that idea with him wherever he goes. Leaving his job whenever conditions do not suit him, he leaves with it the spirit of revolt awakened by him among the more conservative "home guard" of the locality. The "hobo" is, above all, a union man, and hates a scab or a "company

It was the "hobo" miner that constituted the backbone of the Western Federation of Miners in its struggles with the Mine Owners' Association. He it was who led the fights in Cripple Creek and Telluride, in Bisbee and Goldfield; and it is he that is struggling today, with some notable exceptions, among the "home guard," to save Butte from the "copper collar" of the Standard Oil. It was the "hobo" miner that forced the W. F. of M. into line with the new Industrial Union Movement in 1905; resisted the wave of reaction that followed the second convention of the f. W. W.; and is striving with might and main today

to prevent the W. F. of M. from falling into the ranks of "conservative, safe and sane" labor organizations.

In-the lumber, general farming, and fruit industries of the West, similar types of shifting workers are found. At the end of the harvest, or when the lumber camps close down in the fall, thousands of fruit pickers, harvest hands and lumber jacks gather for a few months in cities like Spokane, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, where they spend much of their leisure in public libraries and show up in large numbers at Socialist and I. W. W. meetings. Their susceptibility to the propaganda of Industrial Unionism has already been noted. Thousands of books, pamphlets and papers are purchased every season by these workers, read and distributed by them wherever they go. There is scarcely a nook or corner of the West that has not heard of the Industrial Workers of the World and that is not ripe for industrial organization, thanks mainly to the "hobo" agitator. In proportion to population the West has by far purchased and distributed more I. W. W. literature, furnished more readers of the Bulletin, and contributed more to the financial support of the organization, than the entire section east of the Rocky Mountains. The very papers that have been and are now slandering the "hobo" worker by characterizing him as "beggars" and "slum proletariat," owe their influence in the West largely to his efforts past and present. He is the leaven of the revolutionary industrial union movement in the West, and his absence in proportionate numbers from the East, accounts in large measure for the slowness of the Eastern workers to awaken from their lethargy.

The "hobo" in his travels does not "always ride first-class." He may not enjoy the luxury of "health bread" or of a "summer home" beside the "cool and beautiful shores of Long Island Sound." But hard as his lot is at times, he does not continually complain of "sacinfices," nor "with tears in his eyes" describe his "sufferings in jail" or elsewhere in behalf of the "wage slave ground beneath the iron heel of corporate despotism." With him "the substance surpasses the phrase," and he is content to endure hardship if only his labors will bring nearer the dawn of emancipation.

The cry, "slum proletariat," like that of "dynamiter," is an intended "shield" to reaction in its worst stage of disappointment and consequent mendacity. The cry can in no way affect the spirit of those against whom it is falsely uttered, nor can it long mislead honest workers who investigate the facts.

## RESOLUTION ON PRESTON AND SMITH AFFAIR.

RESOLUTION ON PRESTON AND SMITH AFFAIR.

(Adopted by the Fourth Annual Convention of the I. W. W.)

WHEREAS, In March, 1907, John Silva, a restaurant keeper of Goldfield, Nevada, had trouble with a waitress and discharged her; and, WHEREAS, Because of the fact that after discharging the girl, Silva stubbornly refused to pay her the wages due, a strike was called and pickets established to induce people not to patronize the restaurant while the strike was on; and WHEREAS, Silva seeing fellow worker M. R. Preston doing picket duty outside of the restaurant, grabbed a revolver and aimed at Preston; and

WHEREAS, Silva seeing fellow worker M. R. Preston doing picket duty outside of the restaurant, grabbed a revolver and aimed at Preston; and

WHEREAS, Freston, realizing it was a case of life or death, drew his own revolver and shot Silva in self-defense and then gave himself up to the authorities; and

WHEREAS, Fellow Worker Joseph Smith, who was not present at the time and knew nothing of what had happened, was arrested and along with Preston indicted for murder; and

WHEREAS, In, the so-called trial that followed, irrelevant testimony tending to confuse the jury and prejudice their minds against the defendants was accepted from men who have a record as professional thugs and hold-up men; and

WHEREAS, The counsel for the State was permitted to tell the jury, "You must convict the defendants because such a conviction will tend to cause people living outside of Nevada to invest their money in the State and so bring about great prosperity. Convict these men as an example!"; and

WHEREAS, The judge by not allowing proper cross-examination of witnesses, by his different rulings dyring the trial (?) as well as in his clarge to the jury showed himself to be either violently prejudiced against the defendants or overanxious to serve the robber class who were persecuting them; and

WHEREAS, In spite of being coerced into a verdict the jury recommended the defendants to the mercy of the court; and

WHEREAS, In spite of bein

WHEREAS, In the case of reliow Worker Freston it is ciear that he did nothing except to obey the first law of nature—self-preservation; and WHEREAS, Manslaughter as defined by the laws of Nevada is as follows: "Manslaughter is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice, expressed or implied, and without any mixture of deliberation. It must be voluntary upon a sudden heat of passion, caused by provocation, apparently sufficient to make the passion irresistible; or, involuntary in the commission of an unlawful act or a lawful act, without due caution or circumspection;" and WHEREAS, It is conteded that Fellow Worker Smith was home with his family at the time Silva was killed and therefore his conviction under the above law is an absurdity; and WHEREAS, It is clear from the above facts that the trial of Preston and Smith, was a farce and their conviction a crime against the working class; and WHEREAS, The only real criminals in this case are those who "wearing the purple of hypocrisy" in the form of "spread eagle" talks about "justice," "liberty," "prosperity," "civilized methods," etc., are slowly taking the lives of our fellow workers in the prison of Nevada; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we gather together all the facts in this case and carefully search out the records of all the men behind it and keep it ever before the workers as a sample of the kind of law and the kind of "even-handed justice" the ruling class of this country sometimes ask us to defend with our lives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to secure the freedom of our fellow workers, Preston and Smith.

## RESOLUTION ON MEXICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

(Adopted by the Fourth Annual Convention of the I. W. W.)
WHEREAS, the ruling class of Mexico, through its chief representative, President Porfirio Diaz, and his army of sneaking, 'lying witnesses and butchers, have succeeded in grinding the members of our class in that country down to a condition of slavery almost unequaled in history; and

nesses and butchers, nave succeeded in grinding the country down to a condition of slavery almost intequaled in history; and WHEREAS, These members of our class, obeying the first law of nature, self-preservation, are bravely striving against terrible odds to better their condition; and WHEREAS, Certain active workers in this struggle, among whom are Ricardo Flores Magon, Antonio I. Villarreal and Librado Rivera, having sought refuge in the United States, and having been trailed here by the human bloodhounds of President Diaz, are, through the cooperation of American officials being held in prison in this country; and WHERSAS, Jan Janoff Pouren, owing to a struggle going on in Russia almost identical with that in Mexico, has, in order to escape the bloody hand of the Czar, also sought refuge in this country and has likewise been thrown into prison; and WHEREAS, By thus co-operating with the emissaries of the Czar and President Diaz in bounding these political refugees, the ruling class of this country shows that it considers itself as one with the robber classes of other countries; therefore, be it RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Industrial Workers of the World, extend greetings of solidarity to our fellow workers in Mexico and Russia, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to secure the freedom of all-political refugees in this country.

## IMPORTANT TO READERS OF THE BULLETIN.

## FELLOW WORKERS:

You all realize the utmost importance of the Bulletin to the organiz

It is the means of communication between the members of the

organization.

It is the one and only avenue of publicity that the organition has. All of you must have realized the effort it has cost to maintain

the Bulletin

All of you must have realized the effort it has cost to maintain the Bulletin.

The temporary suspension of the Bulletin has served to emphasize these facts.

The present situation in the labor movement of this country makes it more than ever imperative that the WEEKLY BULLE-TIN be assured.

In order to have the paper on a self-sustaining basis at the subscription price of 50 cents per year, 20,000 copies must be prigted.

Until this number is had the cost of issuing the Bulletin will be an expense on the organization.

To meet this expense we are submitting the following propositions to the readers of the Bulletin:

1. Are you willing to contribute the sum of 50 cents or more as a donation to the Bulletin in the present emergency?

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Yours truly,	
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A LESSON IN CIVILIEED TAOTIOS.

By Catherine Flyan, New York.

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## THE NEW PREAMBLE.

The working class and the employing class have nothing in

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster, a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Knowing, therefore, that such an organization is absolutely.

Knowing, therefore, that such an organization is absolutely necessary for our emancipation we unite under the following constitution:

## I.W.W.

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